



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Joseph La Fountain, Jr.
Site Owner Representative
Joe's Plastics
5725 District Boulevard
Vernon, CA 90058

August 20, 2018

Subject: Transmittal of Preliminary Assessment Report for Joe's Plastics
EPA Identification Number: CAD983624230

Dear Mr. La Fountain:

Enclosed is the Preliminary Assessment Report for the subject site. The Preliminary Assessment was conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 104 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended [42 U.S.C. 9404], commonly known as Superfund. The purpose of the Preliminary Assessment is to determine whether a site will qualify and benefit from inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL) under Superfund.

Based on currently available information, which is contained in the enclosed report, EPA has determined that the site has the potential to qualify for the National Priorities List based on past handling of certain hazardous materials which have also been found in area groundwater. However, in order to substantiate if a release of these substances to area groundwater has occurred, EPA will need to conduct a Site Investigation at the subject facility. A Site Investigation includes taking soil and groundwater samples on the candidate site and on adjacent off-site properties. Once we have worked out a site access agreement, EPA will work collaboratively with you in order to implement the sampling as efficiently as possible and ensure that Site operations are impacted as minimally as practicable. The time frame contemplated for the sampling work is for the Spring of 2019.

Please direct any questions or comments on this report to Matt Mitguard, Site Assessment Manager, at (415) 972-3096.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mindy Clements", is positioned above the typed name.

Mindy Clements, Chief
Brownfields and Site Assessment Section

Enclosure:

cc: Javier Hinojosa
CA Department of Toxic Substances Control
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311-6505

Vivian Nelson, Interim Director
City of Vernon, Health and Environmental Control Department
4305 Santa Fe Avenue
Vernon, CA 90058

REMEDIAL SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION – EPA Region 09

Site Name: JOE'S PLASTICS

Alias(es):

City: VERNON

County or Parish: LOS ANGELES

State: CA

Refer to Report Dated: 08/20/2018

EPA ID: CAD983624230

Report Developed By: Weston Solutions

State ID:

Report Type: Site Reassessment #001

Decision Date: 08/20/2018

☐ 1. Further Remedial Site Assessment Under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:

☒ 2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA.

Higher priority for further assessment

☐ 3. Remedial study/cleanup needed.

Decision/Rationale:

Joe's Plastics (the Site) is located at 5725 District Blvd. in Vernon, Los Angeles County, California. Multiple additional addresses are associated with the site. The 1.4-acre property is in an urban industrial area and is located less than one-quarter mile from residential properties, a public park, and a preschool. The site is within the North East 710 Study Area, which is an area where drinking water wells have historically been impacted by elevated levels of metals and VOCs.

The site has been occupied by Joe's Plastics, a plastic recycling facility, since approximately 1976. Hazardous substances used in plastic recycling operations include solvents and machinery oils.

Between approximately the late 1940s and 1976, the site was occupied by the Calmec Manufacturing Company (Calmec), which became a subsidiary of Ametek, Inc. (Ametek) in the late 1960s. Calmec/Ametek conducted metal manufacturing activities for both the marine and aerospace industries. Although the specific on-site activities and hazardous substances associated with these activities are not known, trichloroethylene (TCE) was an industry standard metal parts cleaning solvent during the Calmec/Ametek operational period. Ametek is currently a global manufacturer of electronic instruments and electromechanical devices.

Between January and June 1994, Joe's Plastics, in cooperation with a prospective property buyer, conducted subsurface investigations at the site. During these investigations, which extended to a depth of 21.5 feet (ft) below ground surface (bgs), detectable concentrations of TCE were identified in all the analyzed soil samples. The most elevated concentrations were identified at depth, with the maximum concentration of 35,000 micrograms per kilogram ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) reported in the sample collected from the southwestern property line. PCE was also identified in at least one of the near-surface samples. The residential Regional Screening Level (RSL) for TCE is 940 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. No known soil vapor or groundwater sampling has been conducted at the site. In addition, no known remediation activities have been conducted at the site.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) previously completed a Preliminary Assessment (PA) for the site in May 1994, which concluded that no further EPA action was recommended. However, the 1994 investigative activities at the site had not been made available to EPA at the time of the PA completion.

In February 2016, EPA completed a Site Inspection (SI) soil and groundwater sampling event at the Dunn Edwards Corporation (Dunn Edwards) site (EPA ID No. CAN000900143), which is located immediately southwest and downgradient of the Joe's Plastics site. The analytical data collected during the event suggested that significantly

Decision/Rationale (Continued):

elevated concentrations of TCE (up to 13,000 micrograms per liter [µg/L]) were present within the Exposition aquifer and were originating from an off-site source. The federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for TCE is 5.0 µg/L.

In October 2016, because of the TCE identified in groundwater during the Dunn Edwards SI, the EPA Remedial Program installed three monitoring well clusters upgradient of the Pemaco Superfund Site (EPA ID No. CAD980737092) to evaluate the potential impacts to on-site remediation from an off-site volatile organic compound (VOC) source. One of these well clusters was installed on District Boulevard, adjacent to the northern corner of the Joe's Plastics site. In January 2018 a sample collected from this well cluster exhibited a TCE concentration of 21,000 µg/L. In February 2018, the EPA Remedial Program installed and sampled an additional well cluster on the northeast side of the Los Angeles River, approximately 0.2-mile northeast and upgradient of the Joe's Plastics site. TCE was not identified in the samples collected from that well cluster.

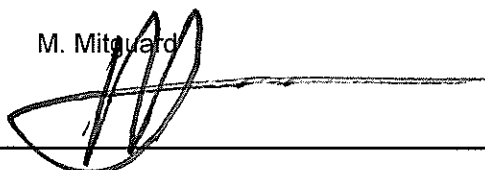
Based on the information obtained during this PA, the subsurface soils beneath the Joe's Plastics site are impacted by one or more VOCs, including TCE, which is likely a result of historical on site activities. Furthermore, there is a potential that TCE originating from the site has migrated into the underlying Exposition aquifer and may be, at least in part, responsible for the contaminated groundwater observed during recent EPA investigations conducted downgradient of the site.

Based on these findings, the Site is eligible for further Federal consideration for listing on the Superfund National Priorities List or other clean up options under State authorities.

Site Decision Made By:

M. Mitgaard

Signature: _____



Decision Date: 08/20/2018